

## CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A shelving unit comprising a frame for supporting a shelf having a top surface on which items can be stored or displayed, an outermost edge, and a bottom surface, the shelf further including an optical transmission tube affixed thereon, said optical transmission tube including a light emitting diode and an elongated transparent body capable of allowing light to be transmitted substantially along its entirety from the light emitting diode positioned approximate at the end of the body.

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2. The shelving unit of Claim 1 wherein the optical transmission tube is affixed to the bottom surface of said shelf.

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15 3. The shelving unit of Claim 1, wherein the optical transmission tube is affixed to the outermost edge of said shelf.

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4. A sign comprising a front semi-transparent or transparent surface and an optical transmission tube affixed behind the surface for illuminating graphics through the semitransparent or transparent surface, and said optical transmission tube including a light emitting diode and an elongated transparent body capable of allowing light to be transmitted substantially along its entirety from the light emitting diode positioned approximate at the end of the body.

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5. The sign of claim 4 wherein the semi-transparent or transparent surface contains graphics thereon.

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6. A flashlight comprising an elongated body housing a power supply compartment, and including an optical transmission tube affixed thereto for illuminating outward therefrom, and said optical transmission tube including a light emitting diode and an elongated transparent body capable of allowing light to be transmitted substantially along its entirety from the light emitting diode positioned approximate at the end of the body.

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7. A storage bin having interior and exterior surfaces and including an optical transmission tube affixed thereto for illuminating outward therefrom,

and said optical transmission tube including a light emitting diode and an elongated transparent body capable of allowing light to be transmitted substantially along its entirety from the light emitting diode positioned approximate at the end of the body.

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8. The storage bin of claim 7 wherein the optical transmission tube is affixed to an interior surface, thereby illuminating the interior of the storage bin.

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9. The storage bin of claim 7 wherein the optical transmission tube is affixed to an exterior surface, thereby illuminating at least part of the structure of the storage bin.

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10. An article of clothing having an optical transmission tube affixed thereto for illuminating outward therefrom, and said optical transmission tube including a light emitting diode and an elongated transparent body capable of allowing light to be transmitted substantially along its entirety from the light emitting diode positioned approximate at the end of the body.

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11 An inline skate having an optical transmission tube affixed thereto for illuminating outward therefrom, and said optical transmission tube including a light emitting diode and an elongated transparent body capable of allowing light to be transmitted substantially along its entirety from the light emitting diode positioned approximate at the end of the body.

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12. A clipboard comprising a flat surface with a clip attached thereto, and having an optical transmission tube affixed thereto for illuminating the surface of the clipboard and said optical transmission tube including a light emitting diode and an elongated transparent body capable of allowing light to be transmitted substantially along its entirety from the light emitting diode positioned approximate at the end of the body.

13. The clipboard of claim 12 wherein the optical transmission tube is affixed to the clip.

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14. The clipboard of claim 12 wherein the optical transmission tube is affixed to the surface of the clipboard.